(c) and (d) No, Sir. Though the market price of rice has increased during 2007-08 compared to previous year, it is affordable to the common people. The Government is also making available rice at subsidized rates to the people through the Public Distribution System.

(e) There is no shortage of rice in the country.

(f) During 2007-08, the domestic price of rice started showing upward trend. With a view to contain the rise in price of rice in the domestic market and increase availability of rice in the country, export of non-basmati rice has been banned w.e.f. 1st April, 2008. However, the export of PUSA-1121 variety of non-basmati rice has been permitted with immediate effect by Notification No.39 (RE-2008) 2004-2009 dated 16th September, 2008. Further, a minimum export price has been fixed for export of basmati rice. Presently, MEP of basmati rice is US $ 1200 per ton or Rs.48,000 per ton w.e.f. 1.4.2008. In addition, a customs duty of Rs.8000 per ton has been imposed on export of basmati rice vide Notification dated 10.5.2008. The Government is continuously monitoring the domestic price and availability of rice in the country.

**Production of foodgrains in North-East**

2. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of rice and other foodgrains varies from State to State in North-East Region;

(b) if so, the production rate of foodgrains on an average, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has identified the reasons for the downward trend in the production-rate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent of support price being provided item-wise and quantity of foodgrains purchased by Government during the last three years in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of rice and other foodgrains varies from State to State in North-East Region. The State-wise production rate (productivity) of foodgrains in the North-East Region during 2004-2005 to 2006-07 is given in the Statement—I. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) Productivity fo different foodgrains in the Region shows year to year fluctuation. The productivity of agricultural crops depends on a number of factors like rainfall, quality seeds, fertilizers, pests and diseases, among others.

(e) The item-wise Minimum Support Price during the last three years, applicable to all the States, is given in the Statement—II. (*See* below)

In Assam, 1000 tonnes of rice was procured during the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2005-06. No procurement of rice done in the North-East Region during KMS 2006-07 and 2007-08. No quantity of wheat has been procured in the last three Rabi Marketing Seasons in the North-East Region.

***Statement-I***

*State-wise Production Rate (Productivity) of Foodgrains in North-East Region*

(Yield kg/Hectare)

| State/UT | Rice | | | Wheat | | | Coarse Cereals | | | Pulses | | | Foodgrains | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 1110 | 1195 | 1195 | 2023 | 1525 | 1575 | 1269 | 1241 | 1249 | 1046 | 1078 | 1078 | 1178 | 1212 | 1216 |
| Assam | 1460 | 1468 | 1332 | 1066 | 1074 | 1117 | 662 | 659 | 720 | 571 | 537 | 557 | 1405 | 1416 | 1286 |
| Manipur | 2472 | 2322 | 2322 | not Grown | not Grown | not Grown | 2781 | 2724 | 2724 | 380 | 523 | 523 | 2390 | 2241 | 2241 |
| Meghalaya | 1737 | 1508 | 1916 | 1778 | 1774 | 2000 | 1349 | 1347 | 1388 | 1385 | 750 | 744 | 1674 | 1455 | 1800 |
| Mizoram | 1900 | 1778 | 599 | not Grown | not Grown | not Grown | 2093 | 1940 | 1963 | 1297 | 1215 | 1160 | 1888 | 1754 | 822 |
| Nagaland | 1698 | 1682 | 1600 | 1585 | 1583 | 867 | 1675 | 1612 | 1394 | 797 | 1281 | 1200 | 1577 | 1615 | 1482 |
| Tripura | 2247 | 2260 | 2472 | 2545 | 2636 | 1800 | 1071 | 1000 | 960 | 618 | 629 | 654 | 2179 | 2194 | 2399 |

***Statement—II***

*Minimum support price of foodgrains during last three years.*

| Sl.No. | Commodity | Variety | 2006—07 | 2007—08 | 2008—09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **KHARIF CROPS** | | | | |
| 1. | Paddy | Common | 580^ | 645$$/850~ | 850 |
| | | Grade 'A' | 610^ | 675$$/880~ | 880 |
| 2. | Jowar | Hybrid | 540 | 600 | 840 |
| | | Maldandi | 555 | 620 | 860 |
| 3. | Bajra | | 540 | 600 | 840 |
| 4. | Maize | | 540 | 620 | 840 |
| 5. | Ragi | | 540 | 600 | 915 |
| 6. | Arhar (Tur) | | 1410 | 1550^^ | 2000 |
| 7. | Moong | | 1520 | 1700^^ | 2520 |
| 8. | Urad | | 1520 | 1700^^ | 2520 |
| | **RABI CROPS** | | | | |
| 9. | Wheat | | 750$$ | 1000 | * |
| 10. | Barley | | 565 | 650 | * |
| 11. | Gram | | 1445 | 1600 | * |
| 12. | Masur (Lentil) | | 1545 | 1700 | * |

$$ An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal is payable over the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

^ An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 40 per quintal is payable on procurement between 1.10.2006 to 31.03.2007.

^^ A bonus of Rs. 40 per quintal is payable over and above the MSP.

~ From 12.06.2008

* To be announced.

**Consumption of meat products**

3. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita rate of consumption of meat and meat products in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the total number of animals slaughtered for meat in India risen to 106,239,000 head;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the export of animal meat products has also grown exponentially in the recent years to South East Asian, South African and Commonwealth States;